

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAR 31 2005****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Gregory T. NOREN	§	Confirmation No.:	6516
Serial No.:	09/998,513	§	Group Art Unit:	2172
Filed:	11/30/2001	§	Examiner:	C. Chen
For:	Space Efficient Backup Technique In A Storage System	§	Docket No.:	200304405-1

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: March 31, 2005

Sir:

In response to the final Office action of January 11, 2005, please enter this Preliminary Amendment and corresponding Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.